

DIARY OF FATHER TIME

The use of chloroform for the purpose of inducing insensibility to surgical operation was first practically adopted in 1846. The idea, however, of saving the human body by artificial means from the pains and tortures inflicted by the surgeon's knife has been by no means recently acted upon. The use of the juice of the poppy, henbane and other narcotic preparations, to effect this object by their deadening influence, may be traced back till it disappears in the darkness of a remote antiquity.

Herodotus gives an account of the use of the vapor of hemp-seed by the Scythians to produce stupefaction. In execution under the horrible form of crucifixion, soporific mixtures were often administered to alleviate the pangs of the victim.

Thousands of years ago the Chinese employed an anaesthetic to paralyze the nervous sensibility before performing surgical operations, while Pliny, the naturalist, who perished in the city of Herculaneum in the year 79, in his description of the plant known as mandragoria, says: "It has a soporific power on the faculties of those who drink it. The ordinary portion is half a cup. It is drunk against serpents and before cutting and puncturing lest it should be felt."

Apuleius of Madura, who flourished about a century after Pliny, speaking of mandragoria, says: "If any one has to have a member mutilated, burned or sawed, let him drink half an ounce with wine and let him sleep till the member is cut away without any pain or sensation."

In the thirteenth century anaesthesia was produced by inhalation of a vapor composed of opium, hemlock, mulberry leaves and a host of other ingredients.

The history of anaesthetics is a remarkable illustration of the fact that science has sometimes for centuries altogether lost sight of great practical thoughts, and, hence, it often occurs that a supposed modern

discovery is only the rediscovery of a principle already known to other ages.

ON STRIKE PROBE



Joseph Howell

Representative Joseph Howell was at one time mayor of Wellsville, Utah. He was born in Box Elder, Utah, and gained his education in the common schools and the University of Utah. He is a Republican.

WOMEN PREPARE TO GET THEIR VOTE ON ALDERMAN

With flying squads of trained nurses provided to care for their babies and women election officials, rugs, flowers and the odor of perfume in the polling-places, Chicago women today began registering early for the aldermanic primaries to be held February 24.

Before the books close at 9 p. m. it is expected at least 125,000 women will have accepted their first opportunity to register, and at least that many more will place their names in the books on March 17, the last registration day before the aldermanic election of April 7.